



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests Thunder Basin National Grassland

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Laramie celebrates the arrival of the Capitol Christmas Tree

(Laramie, Wyo. Nov. 3, 2010) – For the first time ever, Wyoming is providing the Christmas tree that adorns the west front lawn of the US Capitol in Washington DC. The tree is coming from the Bridger-Teton National Forest of western Wyoming and will arrive in Laramie Nov. 16. The community of Laramie has organized a special celebration -- “Laramie Pride and the People’s Tree” -- at the Wyoming Territorial Prison, 975 Snowy Range Road. The event will be from 4-6 p.m. The University of Wyoming ROTC Color Guard and the High School Band will be present to welcome the tree, as well as several guest speakers. Of course Santa will be there, in Wyoming style with his cowboy gear, and the 4H Club will sell hot beverages while the Plainsmen perform songs.

Tree ornaments from Laramie will be presented to the staff accompanying the tree and be hung on the tree when it reaches the Capitol. The tree will visit about 30 towns in Wyoming before heading to the Capitol, arriving there on November 29. From Laramie the tree and its entourage will travel to Cheyenne then Wheatland, Douglas and Gillette. When the tree arrives at the Capitol it will be lowered into a 5-foot deep hole, strung with lights, and decorated with thousands of handcrafted ornaments made by Wyomingites. In December, the Speaker of the House and a lucky Wyoming student will light the tree and showcase Wyoming's historical, cultural and natural beauty. Throughout the holiday season, the tree will be lit at dusk, where it will be enjoyed by people throughout the world.

The National Forests have supplied the Capitol with a huge Christmas tree every year since 1964, as well as about 75 smaller trees. This year all the trees were harvested in Wyoming.

Official Capitol Christmas Tree merchandise – mugs, shirts, ornaments, bookbags and more – can be purchased at the Nov. 16 event.

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